Minutes of the Meeting
Board of Directors
San Jose Downtown Association

April 12, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Jose Downtown Association, a non-profit California organization, was held at The Glass House, 2 S. Market Street, San Jose, CA.

The following directors were present at the meeting: Bartl, Buchholz, Burroughs, Cirone, Corbett, Jenkins, McClain, Nichols, Pulcrano, Rewkiewicz, Serpa, Summers, Truong, Vuckovich and Wong.

The following directors were absent from the meeting: Bates, Calais, DeBernardo, Gilbert, Lambert, Matsushima, Neale, Osuka, Perez, Ramirez, Randall, Silver and Tabatabaei.

Also present were SJDA staff: Michelle Azevedo, Jonathan Borca, Corinna Dixon, Dori Gao, Rick Jensen, Danielle Ratliff, Jason Su, Chloe Verrey and Bree von Faith.


President Rewkiewicz called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m.

Rewkiewicz thanked The Glass House for hosting the meeting site and Liz Cirone of Hopkins & Carley for sponsoring the continental breakfast.

President’s report
Rewkiewicz announced the opening day of Downtown Farmers’ Market at San Pedro Street is on Friday, May 3.

Santa Run – Silicon Valley Leadership Group

SVLG Race Director Chris Weiler reviewed that the 7th Annual Santa Run Silicon Valley held on December 16, 2018 had over 4,000 participants and raised over $55,000 benefitting Downtown Ice, Christmas in the Park and Reading Partners. Weiler presented von Faith with a check for $27,500 in support of Downtown Ice.
Mitigating Homelessness

Raul Peralez, San José City Council, District 3

Peralez identified dealing with the homelessness crisis as the top priority of his term as downtown’s D3 Councilmember. Holding community meetings has helped to identify and address the concerns of the community. Although the problem has not been solved, they know that they have solutions.
- San Jose currently has ~4,300 homeless individuals
- Permanent supportive housing is available for ~134 downtown individuals
- Need housing for ~400 more downtown individuals
- Two Bridge Housing Communities will accommodate 40 tiny homes each
- The City is considering allowing sanctioned encampments with amenities and access to services and establishing safe parking lots.

Peralez stressed that the need for community understanding of the issue and support of solutions is critical.

Jacky Morales-Ferrand, Director of Housing, City of San Jose

Morales-Ferrand identified homelessness as a complex issue that uniquely and immediately impacts the downtown area.

Since 2015 the City has worked with Destination Home, Santa Clara County, and the Housing Authority to house 6,000 homeless individuals county-wide. Although ~150 individuals are housed each month, another ~350 enter the system each month.

Although the City has said “yes” to many of the solutions, there is the great need for Dollars (funding), Dirt (places to build), and Determination (community support).

Solutions include supporting:
- Financial investment in a homelessness prevention fund
- PATH’s downtown outreach team
- Plaza Hotel which provides short-term interim housing for working adults
- Overnight parking locations
- Bridge housing
- Rebuilding for Heroes
- Destination Home

Morales-Ferrand encouraged members to:
- Listen and learn about the issue
- Work together towards solutions
- Support ballot initiatives towards housing
- Say “yes” to placement of housing options
- Recognize homelessness as a problem

Consuelo Hernandez, Division Director, Office of Supportive Housing, Santa Clara Co.

Hernandez advised that the Office of Supportive Housing is working with all cities within the County.

In November 2016, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A a $950 million Affordable Housing Bond projected to fund 120 new affordable housing
developments over ten years. To date, approximately $250 million of that fund has been invested towards construction of 19 housing developments.

Additional information can be found at https://www.sccgov.org/sites/osh/HousingandCommunityDevelopment/AffordableHousingBond/Pages/home.aspx

The following service organizations were present to address questions pertaining to homelessness: PATH; Abode Services; Downtown Streets Team; and Catholic Charities.

President Rewkiewicz adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.